

NOV 02 2012

WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

October 30, 2012

To: Kathy Hamel
WA Dept. of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504

From: Duane Miller
29122 O Street
Ocean Park, WA 98640

Subject: Japanese Eelgrass Control Permits

Dear Ms. Hamel,

I submitted a letter on the effects of Japanese eelgrass some time ago to your agency. My concern was its impact on the tideland in Willapa Bay's public lands which I hunt and clam on.

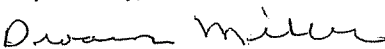
I received a letter asking for comment only on "commercial clam beds" to be saved. I don't understand this at all. What I'm seeing is all the tide flats of the bay are in the process of being destroyed by this grass. Most of the public land (DNR I think) on my west side of Willapa Bay has turned to goo. The clams are gone and the sand has turned to a muck that I can hardly get around in for hunting.

I was checked by a fisheries patrolman for my steamer clam limit recently (I could only find 2lb). I asked him why, if WDFW has the authority over clams, that they weren't doing something about the grass that was wiping the clams out? He told me it wasn't his problem. Then who is responsible for stopping this on public lands? Your letter only lets the commercial clam growers treat their land. Your proposal is crazy; protecting this grass as it gobbles up Willapa Bay is criminal. The state agencies should be the one's doing this, protecting our public property from this grass, not protecting the grass.

I support your proposal to control on private clam beds. However, Dept. of Ecology should expand this right to all of Willapa Bay and either take this project on yourselves or make sure whichever agency is in charge of protecting public lands is forced to do it using the best proven tools to kill it with.

I don't know how much of the rest of the bay, is being, or has been destroyed, but if there is any left now is the time for action, not after it is too late.

Respectfully,


Duane & Frances Miller
29122 O Street
Ocean Park, WA 98640

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are under 15 years of age is expected to increase from 1.1 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of people aged 65 and over is expected to increase from 200 million to 400 million. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion.